

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE FY04 EQIP TRIBAL RANKING CRITERIA

Ranking the applicants – Using the Worksheet

Important – Before granting points to an applicant for any item:

- 1) The modifier must apply to the area to be treated under the application.
- 2) The application must contain a conservation practice eligible for EQIP cost share or incentive payments that will address each modifier for which points are being awarded.
- 3) Groundwater sensitive areas need to be identified by the Tribes.
- 4) Culturally important plants need to be identified by the Tribes.

SOILRESOURCE CONSIDERATION – (Maximum = 150 points)

“The RKLS is > 19, or the CI is > 17 on cropland” (85 points)

Erosion prediction values have been assigned that target high potential soil erosion on cropland. The values are different for RKLS (for water erosion) and CI (for wind erosion). For evaluation, use the predominant soil map unit for the cropland included in the application, and use the most current factors in the Field Office Technical Guide for R, K, C, and I. The standard LS may be used if the actual LS has not been previously documented in the applicant’s case file.

“There is a soil condition concern on cropland” (0 to 50 points)

This modifier addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, and soil contaminants. Points are granted if there is sufficient indication that FOTG Quality Criteria is not met on the cropland included in the application. This may be based on case file information or applicant interview. Different points may be assigned for this modifier based on the land use or the concern.

Cropland	<u>50</u> pts
Pasture	<u>40</u> pts
Range	<u>30</u> pts
Forest	<u>20</u> pts
Other	<u>5</u> pts

“Ephemeral gullies on cropland need treatment” (0 to 30 points)

Points are granted if there is sufficient indication that excessive erosion is occurring from one or more ephemeral gullies within the cropland included in the application. This may be based on case file information, aerial photo interpretation, topographic maps, and applicant interview. Different points may be assigned based on the proposed treatment.

Grassed Waterway	<u>30</u> pts
Stripcropping	<u>20</u> pts
Terracing	<u>15</u> pts
Grade Stabilization Structure	<u>10</u> pts
Other	<u>5</u> pts

WATER RESOURCE CONSIDERATION – (Maximum = 300 points)

“Surface Irrigation will be converted to a more efficient system” (0 to 70 points)

Surface irrigation is the distribution of irrigation water by surface means such as furrows, borders, contour levees, or contour ditches. Grant points if the application includes conservation practices that directly improve irrigation efficiencies on land that is currently under surface irrigation. This includes the use of gated pipe, PAM, sprinkler, and trickle systems. Evaluation may be based on case file information and applicant interview. Different points may be assigned based on the proposed system change.

<u>Surface to Trickle</u>	<u>70 pts</u>
<u>Surface to Pivot + IWM</u>	<u>50 pts</u>
<u>Surface to Hand/Wheel + IWM</u>	<u>30 pts</u>
<u>Buried pipe / gated pipe w / PAM + IWM</u>	<u>20 pts</u>
<u>PAM with IWM</u>	<u>10 pts</u>

“A buffer practice will be installed” (0 to 70 points)

Grant points if the application includes a buffer practice that will provide a water quality benefit. Filter strips, field borders, grassed waterways, hedgerow plantings, field windbreaks, shelterbelts, grass buffer strips, contour grass strips, and riparian buffers are all examples of conservation buffers. Evaluation may be based on aerial photos, topographic maps, and applicant interview. Different points may be assigned based on the buffer type.

Riparian Forest Buffer	<u>70 pts</u>
Contour Grass Strips	<u>60 pts</u>
<u>Grass Buffer Strips</u>	<u>50 pts</u>
<u>Shelterbelt</u>	<u>30 pts</u>
<u>Field Windbreak</u>	<u>30 pts</u>
Hedgerow Planting	<u>30 pts</u>
Grassed Waterway	<u>20 pts</u>
Filter Strip	<u>20 pts</u>
Field Borders	<u>10 pts</u>

“Nutrient Mgt. will be included (non-livestock operations)” (40 points)

Grant points if the application is a non-livestock operation with lands where plant nutrients and soil amendments are applied, and will include the development and implementation of the Nutrient Management practice to minimize agricultural non-point source pollution of surface and ground water resources. Evaluation may be based on case file information and applicant interview.

“A CNMP will be included (livestock operations)” (45 points)

Grant points if the application is a livestock operation with lands where animal manure is applied, and will include the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan that meets NRCS criteria. Evaluation may be based on case file information and applicant interview.

“Pest Mgt. will be included for crop or pasture” (65 points)

Grant points if the application includes crop or pasture where pest control is needed to reduce adverse effects on ground and/or surface water by including the development and implementation of the Pest Management practice. Evaluation may be based on soil interpretations, case file information related to pesticide risk analysis, and applicant interview.

“Storage is needed for animal manure” (40 points)

Grant points if a waste storage facility is needed and included in the application. Evaluation may be based on applicant interview, livestock numbers, and current storage capability.

“Heavy use areas need stabilization” (30 points)

Grant points if there is a need to stabilize small areas of short-term livestock containment to improve water quality and/or quantity. Evaluation may be based on soil interpretations, case file information, and applicant interview.

“Forest access roads deliver sediment to salmonid-bearing streams” (0 to 85 points)

Grant points if there is sufficient indication that forest access roads are delivering sediment directly or indirectly to salmonid-bearing streams. Evaluation may be based on aerial photography, topographic maps, and applicant interview. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) definition for stream Types 1, 2, or 3 shall be the basis for determining if the stream is salmonid bearing. For this assessment, use information made available by the Tribe such as fish presence maps developed through the Limiting Factors Analysis. Points may be assigned based on proximity.

Road adjacent to or crossing stream	<u>85 pts</u>
Road within 1/8 mile of stream	<u>75 pts</u>
<u>Road within 1/4 mile of stream</u>	<u>50 pts</u>
<u>Road within 1/2 mile of stream</u>	<u>25 pts</u>
<u>Road more than 1/2 mile of stream</u>	<u>0 pts</u>

“Proposed contract area is within a shellfish sensitive area” (20 points)

Grant points if the application is for land in a watershed that flows into estuaries within the Greater Puget Sound Region, Grays Harbor or Willapa Bay. Evaluation may be based on aerial photography, topographic maps, and applicant interview.

“Proposed contract area is within a groundwater sensitive area” (70 points)

Grant points if the application is within an area that has been determined by the Tribe to be a sensitive groundwater area. Examples include groundwater recharge areas, wellhead protection areas, groundwater management areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, and sole source aquifers.

Name or location of sensitive area #1 _____ or
Name or location of sensitive area #2 _____ or
Name or location of sensitive area #3 _____

“Proposed contract area is adjacent to a 303(d) listed stream or drains into it via a defined tributary” (0 to 80 points)

Grant points if the application has a 303(d) listed stream running through it, or is adjacent to such a stream as identified on the website shown below, and the proposed treatment will address one or more identified water quality concerns of that listed stream.

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/1998/wrias/1998_water_segs.pdf

If the application area is not adjacent to a listed stream, grant points if it is upstream and adjacent to a tributary (perennial or intermittent) of that stream as identified on a USGS quadrangle map, and the proposed treatment will address one or more identified water quality concerns of the listed stream. In these instances, different points may be assigned based on proximity to the listed stream.

Adjacent to listed stream segment	<u>80</u> pts
Upstream distance < ¼ mile	<u>70</u> pts
Upstream distance ¼ to ½ mile	<u>60</u> pts
Upstream distance ½ to ¾ mile	<u>40</u> pts
Upstream distance ¾ to 1 mile	<u>15</u> pts
Upstream distance > 1 mile	<u>0</u> pts

AIR RESOURCE CONSIDERATION – (Maximum = 25 points)

“Proposed contract area is within a contributing area to PM-10, dust” (25 points)

Grant points if the application is for land located within the Conservation Priority Area identified on the CRP Air Quality Map (2-CRP, WA Exhibit 12).

PLANT RESOURCE CONSIDERATION – (Maximum = 250 points)

“There is an excessive invasion of weeds or woody vegetation” (0 to 75 points)

Grant points if there is sufficient indication that there are adverse impacts to plant production, condition, and quality goals as a result of invasive weeds or woody vegetation. Evaluation may be based on aerial photography and applicant interview. Different points may be assigned based on extent of problem.

100% of planning unit impacted	<u>75</u> pts
50 – 99% of planning unit impacted	<u>50</u> pts
25 – 49% of planning unit impacted	<u>25</u> pts
< 25% of planning unit impacted	<u>5</u> pts

“Water Development is a factor for proper grazing distribution” (70 points)

Grant points if there is sufficient indication that lack of adequate water quantity or availability are limiting factors for achieving proper grazing distribution. Evaluation may be based on aerial photos, case file information, the National Range and Pasture Handbook, and applicant interview.

“Livestock have uncontrolled access to riparian areas” (0 to 70 points)

Grant points if there are riparian areas that are not fenced and there is sufficient indication that grazing of domestic animals occur within these areas. Evaluation may be based on aerial photos, case file information, and applicant interview. Different points may be assigned based on proposed treatment.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| a. Riparian area will be fenced | <u>50</u> pts |
| b. Prescribed Grazing w/o fencing | <u>25</u> pts |
| c. (a or b) + riparian forest buffer | <u>70</u> pts |

“Culturally important plants need to be restored” (100 points)

Grant points if the application will restore plants identified by the Tribe as being culturally important. Evaluation may be based on case file information, Tribal information, and applicant interview.

ANIMAL RESOURCE CONSIDERATION – (Maximum = 200 points)

“There are instream structures known to be barriers to upstream passage of salmonid fish on forest land” (0 to 80 points)

Grant points if there is sufficient indication that instream structures, including road culverts, on forestland are impairing upstream passage of salmonid fish. Evaluation may be based on aerial photography, topographic maps, and applicant interview. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) definition for stream Types 1, 2, or 3 shall be the basis for determining if the stream is salmonid bearing. For this assessment, use information made available by the Tribe, such as fish presence maps developed through the Limiting Factors Analysis. Different points may be assigned based on the extent of upstream passage that will be made accessible.

Distance to the next upstream barrier:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| <1000 ft. | <u>80</u> pts |
| 1000 – 2000 ft. | <u>60</u> pts |
| 2001 – 3500 ft. | <u>40</u> pts |
| 3501 – 5000 ft. | <u>20</u> pts |
| >5000 ft. | <u>0</u> pts |

“Proposed contract area is adjacent to a stream which supports listed salmonid.” (100 points)

Grant points if the application has a stream which supports listed salmonids running through it, or is adjacent to such a stream as identified on the map (*Distribution of Federally-Listed Salmon, Trout, and Char on Private and Tribal Lands* dated September 2002). Exception – Do **not** grant points for Bull Trout in the Colville Watershed.

“A practice will be implemented to benefit terrestrial species occupying the proposed contract area”(0 to 95 points)

Grant points if the application includes one of the following conservation practices and provides direct wildlife benefit for terrestrial species that occupy the proposed contract area. Different points may be assigned for this modifier based on the proposed practices to be implemented.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| Restoration & Mgmt. of Rare and Declining Habitats | <u>95</u> pts |
| Riparian Forest Buffer | <u>75</u> pts |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt. | <u>50</u> pts |
| <u>Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt.</u> | <u>50</u> pts |

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS – (Maximum = 75 points)

“Planned practices will assist in implementation of existing tribal resource management plans” (45 points)

Grant points if the application includes practices that will assist the person in implementing tribal resource management plans. Evaluation may be based on case file information, Tribal information, and applicant interview.

“Primary benefits are to Tribal lands and Tribal members” (5 to 30 points)

Grant points according to the following chart.

Situation	Points
Applicant is a resident Tribe or locally enrolled Tribal Member or a Tribal descendent and the land is Tribal Government Land, Allottee land or Fee Land. Fee land must be within a Reservation boundary.	30
Applicant is an American Indian and the land is Tribal Government Land, Allottee land or Fee Land. Fee land must be within a Reservation boundary.	25
Applicant is a non-Tribal entity, and the land is Tribal Government Land or Allottee land. Land must be within a Reservation boundary.	10
Applicant is a non-Tribal entity, and the land is Tribal Government Land or Allottee land. Land is outside a Reservation boundary.	5

Note: Tribal Government Land is defined as land that is under the jurisdiction of the Tribe. This includes Tribal Trust Land and Tribal Fee Land.

[Note: Fee Land outside the Reservation boundaries is not eligible for the Tribal pool.](#)

[Note: Allottee Land is defined as individual member\(s\) land that is under BIA trust responsibilities, and is subject to Tribal Government laws and policies.](#)